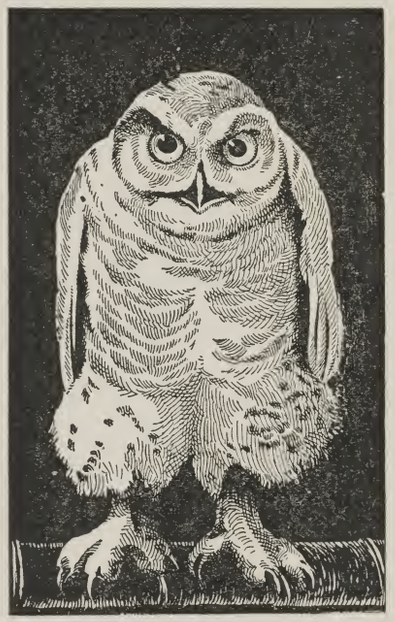
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THE WILD FLOWERS OF AMERICA

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Wisdom, Kindness and Appreciation.

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THE most precious attribute in man is wisdom or common sense. Brilliancy pales before it. In every walk of life there is brought home to us every day the value of wisdom. There are people in the world who outstrip their neighbors and competitors in every rivalry. They look at things with keener appreciation; they know things better and as it were by instinct. These people are generally credited with wisdom. They usually have knowledge. If an invention of striking value comes out they secure it. If a book of surpassing merit is issued they buy it, and the sum of it all is, these people get ahead and the others don't know why. The way the knowing ones are buying the portfolios of "WILD FLOWERS OF AMERICA" is the latest instance, striking and convincing. These people know just as well as if they saw the tangible evidence that they will never have an opportunity to get these portfolios at the nominal figure for which they are now securing them, and the consequence is the wise of both sexes and all ages who know about them are buying them. That's Wisdom.

KINDNESS.

Next to Wisdom and a beautiful companion for it—is Kindness. There are tens of thousands who have not had the opportunity of seeing the announcements of the Wild Flower portfolios, and would have missed them entirely had it not been for the KINDNESS of others telling and writing to friends, informing them how and where they can get them. Thousands of these are cutting out coupons and sending them to friends. Isn't this KINDNESS? It is kindness that will be appreciated more and more as the years roll by, when many a man and woman will be heard to say, "I would not have had the 'Wild Flowers of America' if it had not been for my good friend ———." Kindness endureth. Perhaps some others will let their friends know that for a short, short time back numbers of "Wild Flower" portfolios may be procured through the same medium.

APPRECIATION.

Here follow a few extracts from letters received giving evidence of appreciation. And so this great work is passing on, and millions will lament the lost opportunity when it is too late.

"Wild Flowers of America" fill a long-felt want.

Amos J. Cummings,
U. S. Congressman.

"Wild Flowers of America" carried out with the enthusiasm of a botanist and the skill of an artist. **Professor W. Wilson,**
Chairman U. S. Committee Ways and Means.

Nothing that has come under my notice is to be compared with the "Wild Flowers of America," by G. H. Buek & Co.

W. T. Harris,
Chairman U. S. Bureau Education, Washington.

"Wild Flowers of America" for the first time places the native flowers of the United States within the reach of every man, woman and child of our land. **Amos J. Cummings.**

Regarding "Wild Flowers of America," by G. H. Buek & Co., while there are a number of works in which a few of our more conspicuous plants are figured, there is none so far as I know that is so exhaustive as this. **Professor F. H. Knowlton,**
Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

"Wild Flowers of America," by G. H. Buek & Co., is a happy idea.
Professor W. Wilson,
Chairman U. S. Committee Ways and Means, Washington.



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COLORADO ASTER.

ASTER COLORADOENSIS.

JULY—AUGUST.



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BUR CUCUMBER.

SICYOS ANGULATUS.

JULY.

PLATE 177.

COLORADO ASTER. ASTER COLORADOENSIS. (SUNFLOWER FAMILY.)

Stems clustered, low, rising from a thick root, leaves obovate or spatulate, deeply dentate with aristate teeth; heads large, single at the summit of the stems; involucre consisting of numerous closely imbricated, linear lanceolate compound bracts; rays numerous, sometimes as many as forty.

PUZZLING beyond compare are the Asters as a group of plants. There are so many species of them, and they vary so greatly, running into each other almost inextricably, that to distinguish even the common kinds is not always easy. Darwin says in the "Origin of Species," that great store-house of significant facts in biology, that a species belonging to a dominant genus, that is, a genus of many species widely distributed, is apt to produce many varieties. Having overcome all competitors, the members of such a group have leisure to devote themselves to self-improvement. War at an end, the arts of peace enlist activity. Variation increases, and Natural Selection fixes and develops the variations useful to the plant.

The Asters have possessed themselves of the length and breadth of North America. The marshes of the coast know their dominion. Every field, grove, hillside, copse is decked with their gay flowers in autumn. Even the bare, desolate cliffs of the great western mountains show their peculiar, low, stout-rooted Asters. One of these is Aster Coloradoensis, which grows at a high elevation. The short, clustered stems bear each its large, violet-rayed head. It is a handsome little plant, lowly but well able to take care of itself in its bleak home.

PLATE 178.

BUR CUCUMBER. SICYOS ANGULATUS. (GOURD FAMILY.)

Stem weak, climbing by slender, forked tendrils; leaves alternate, long-petioled, deeply heartshaped, angulately three or five-lobed, lobes acute, margin dentate; flowers monoecious, the sterile in corymbs, the fertile in heads; corolla five-lobed, open bellshaped; stamens cohering by anthers into a ring; fruit ovate, covered with prickly hairs.

THIS odd climber is an inhabitant of low grounds by the borders of streams. It occurs sparingly from Canada and New England south to Florida, but is abundant in the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi and their tributaries. It extends westward as far as Minnesota and Eastern Texas. The greenish white, not showy blossoms begin to open in midsummer, continuing to expand as late as September. The fruit is the most characteristic feature of the Sicyos. While the staminate flowers are in loose, open clusters, the pistillate are borne in dense heads. They develop into one-seeded pods, forming collectively a rounded mass, though each is separate. They are densely covered with straw-colored prickles, hence the popular designation, Bur Cucumber. The name indicates the relationship of the plant to the Cucumber. The botanical name, too, is the Greek one for this popular vegetable.

The family of the gourds is sparingly represented in North America. On the western prairies and in the arid desert region of the West, dwell most of our representatives of this group. It is a very useful family, numbering among its members such widely known plants as the gourd, squash, cucumber, pumpkin, melon and water-melon.



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STAR-FLOWER.

TRIENTALIS AMERICANA.

MAY—JULY.



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ANDERSON'S CROWFOOT.

RANUNCULUS ANDERSONII.

MAY.

PLATE 179.

STAR-FLOWER. TRIENTALIS AMERICANA. (PRIMROSE FAMILY.)

Stem simple, smooth, rising from a long, creeping, filiform root-stock; lower leaves minute scaled; foliage leaves in a whorl of five to seven, some of them larger than the others, lanceolate, acute at both ends, sessile; flowers on slender axillary peduncles; corolla rotate, seven-lobed, white.

"Where star-flowers strew the rivulet's side."—BRYANT.



LITTLE and piquant is the Star-flower, or Chickweed Wintergreen, as it is sometimes called from a slight resemblance of the flowers to the white blossoms of the Chickweed. It is a native of the northern part of our continent, growing southward along the Blue Ridge into Virginia. It is not a common plant, though abundant in some localities. A peculiar little plant it is. The long, slender underground shoots from which the low stems rise are sometimes two feet long. The leaves are borne in a circle at the top of the stem. There are usually seven, of which three or four are larger than the others. If one holds these leaves to the light, they will reveal a very pretty system of veins. The tiny blossom is borne on a long, slender stalk springing from the axil of the leaf. The flat corolla is white and usually seven-lobed, showing that it first consisted of seven petals, which have united. It is unusual for a plant to have the parts in sevens, thus. Four, or five, or six is a common number in the plan of flowers, but seven petals or stamens rarely occur. Of "The Blessed Damozel," Rossetti tells us that

"The stars in her hair were seven."

PLATE 180.

ANDERSON'S CROWFOOT. RANUNCULUS ANDERSONII. (CROWFOOT FAMILY.)

Perennial from a large cluster of thickened, fibrous roots; stem erect, smooth, leafless, or nearly so, one-flowered; root leaves on long petioles, much divided, divisions linear; sepals five, resembling petals; petals large, rounded or obovate; achene inflated; style short, curved.



TO those accustomed to the bright Buttercups that yellow our meadows in May and June, the idea of a pink Buttercup is an absurdity. One might as well talk of blue Roses and red Harebells. We have some Crowfoots that are white-flowered, but pink ones—pshaw! Stop a bit, though. Let us leave our familiar haunts and visit the Great West, home of all that is strange and unaccountable in the flower kingdom. Even pink buttercups grow there.

Ranunculus Andersonii, which, in plain English, we may call Anderson's Crowfoot, is a small plant of the vicinity of the Great Salt Lake, and thence as far west as the Sierras, and straying north, it may be met with. The stem rises from a thick, scaly base, very unlike the ordinary growth of these plants. It is commonly leafless, the leaves being clustered at the root. Occasionally, there is a small leaf on the stem. The flower is the extraordinary part of the plant. It is large and of a deep rose color. Even the sepals are delicate and margined with pink. The fruit, too, inflated and with the seed by no means filling it, is different from that of other crowfoots. It stands quite by itself.

To return for a moment to the colors of blossoms: Grant Allen tells us that, as flowers advance in type, they pass from yellow, which is the lowest color, through pink, red, and lilac, to purple and blue, which are the highest. Hence, until the Rose can display the regal blue, she cannot deem herself the queen of flowers.



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EARLY MEADOW-RUE.

THALICTRUM DIOICUM.

MAY.



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CLOSED GENTIAN.

GENTIANA ANDREWSII.

AUGUST.

PLATE 181.

EARLY MEADOW-RUE. THALICTRUM DIOICUM. (CROWFOOT FAMILY.)

Smooth; root-stock short, thickened, scaly; stem erect, paniculately branched above; leaves on long petioles which are dilated and clasping at base, ternately several times compound, leaflets broadly ovate, deeply lobed; flowers dioecious, forming a large panicle; stamens of sterile flowers drooping on filiform filaments.

SOME plants that lack showy, bright-colored flowers, make up for the want by the grace of their foliage and bearing. Such are the Meadow-rues. Their blossoms, green or white, are not handsome when taken individually, yet in clusters they present a very pretty appearance.

"All are needed by each one,
Nothing is good or fair alone."

The leafage has the beauty wherein these plants excel. The leaves are large and cut into many leaflets, like those of the Columbine. They somewhat resemble the delicate fronds of the Maiden-hair Fern. As the stems are often dark brown in color, the likeness is carried a step farther.

The early Meadow-rue is the handsomest of our Thalictrums. A sylvan species, flowering in early spring, it is naturally more delicate and graceful than its large, coarse, meadow-growing, summer-blooming sisters. The leaves droop on their stalks. The large clusters of staminate flowers, consisting merely of a small green calyx and a number of stamens with hair-like, down-hanging filaments, add to the pensive, drooping aspect of the plant. The staminate flowers, being little more than stamens, are, of course, yellow. The rather conspicuous, feathery, red-purple stigmas give their color to the pistillate clusters.

Thalictrum dioicum is a plant of rich, wooded hillsides, common in the Eastern States and Canada. It flowers in April and May.

PLATE 182.

CLOSED GENTIAN. GENTIANA ANDREWSII. (GENTIAN FAMILY.)

Quite smooth; stem erect, simple, obscurely angled, leafy; leaves opposite, almost sessile, narrowed at base, acute at apex, thick, dark green above, pale beneath; flowers large in axillary clusters; corolla blue with white folds, closed, not lobed, much exceeding the calyx.



CONSPICUOUS in the autumn landscape is this odd flower. Thoreau has given us a picture of it in "Autumn." So well does his description photograph the outward appearance and manner of life of the closed Gentian, that we cannot do better than quote it here:

"Sept. 28, 1858, P.M. To Great Fields via Gentian Lane. The gentian (Andrewsii) now generally in prime, on low, moist, shady banks. Its transcendent blue shows best in the shade and suggests coolness; contrasts there with the fresh green; a splendid blue light in the shade, turning to purple with age. They are particularly abundant under the north side of the willow row in Merrick's pasture. I count fifteen in a single cluster there, and afterward twenty in Gentian Lane near Flint's Bridge, and there were other clusters below; bluer than the bluest sky, they lurk in the moist and shady recesses of the banks."

It is such notes as these, jotted down day by day, as the flowers described appear in their order, that bring us into true intimacy with the plant world. It is as easy to become acquainted with a man by examining the structure of his bones and by studying his brain from the physiological standpoint, as it is to know a plant by measuring its different parts and gazing at sections of its stem through the microscope.

"The old men studied magic in the flowers,
And human fortunes in astronomy,
And an omnipotence in chemistry,
Preferring things to names, for these were *men*."—EMERSON.



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CREEPING PHLOX.

PHLOX REPTANS.

JUNE.



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BLUET.

HOUSTONIA CÆRULEA.

MAY—JUNE.

PLATE 183.

CREEPING PHLOX. PHLOX REPTANS. (POLEMONIUM FAMILY.)

Stems long, slender, creeping; leaves opposite, rather remote, spatulate or obovate, on short ciliate petioles, rounded at apex, acute at base; flowers in cymes terminating erect branches; corolla large, tube long and slender, limb spreading, five-lobed; stamens five, borne on the corolla tube.

WE feel a certain pride in claiming the beautiful genus Phlox all for ourselves. None of the species are found outside of North America. In elegance of form and beauty of coloring 'twould be difficult to find their peers the world over. From the tiny Moss Pink that charitably clothes the ground with its dense mat of stem and leaves and spangles it o'er with bright blossoms, to the tall Phlox Maculata that raises its full cluster of rose-purple flowers in meadows, or the gorgeous Phlox Drummondii that adorns the prairies, all are beautiful.

Phlox Reptans is one of the most elegant of these plants. From New York to Georgia and through wide stretches of Canada, it opens its large, blue-purple, fragrant flowers in moist, springy places along the mountains. Its time of flowering is May. The stems creep along the ground, often to a great length, bearing pairs of bright green leaves at rather distinct intervals. These sterile shoots grow like the Linnæa or some of the Speedwells. But the stalk that bears the flowers rises upward in true Phlox fashion.

In the language of the flowers, Phlox signifies "unanimity." Is it because all are united in admiring the beauty of these plants?

PLATE 184.

BLUETS. HOUSTONIA CÆRULEA. (MADDER FAMILY.)

Root-stocks filiform; stems tufted, slender, branching; leaves spatulate, the root-leaves on slender petioles; stem-leaves sessile, very narrow; flowers terminating the filiform branches, solitary calyx very small, four-lobed; corolla with a long slender tube and a spreading, four-lobed border.

EMBLEMS of contentment are the meek little Bluets.

"Sweet flower, thou tellest how hearts
As pure and tender as thy leaf, as low
And humble as thy stem, will surely know
The joy that peace imparts."

The lines of Percival might have been addressed to the Houstonia, so aptly do they voice the spirit of this little plant.

Houstonia cærulea is a common plant of fields and roadsides in eastern North America, opening its azure, yellow-eyed blossoms in April and May. Burroughs has a pretty conceit in regard to this flower. "The Houstonia," he writes, "—'innocence'—flecking or streaking the cold spring earth with a milky way of minute stars." It grows in patches, often covering the ground for considerable distances with a sheet of tender, celestial color. It has the same meek, lovable beauty that belongs to the Forget-me-not. The name of "Innocence" is the best that has been given it. The tiny leaves are noticed only when we pull the plant. As it grows, only the blossoms meet our eyes. With what a modest, trustful gaze they look up at us! It is like meeting the eyes of a dear friend to come upon the Bluets in the spring-time.

PLATE 185.

CUT-LEAVED PHACELIA. PHACELIA BIPINNATIFIDA. (WATER-LEAF FAMILY.)

Whole plant hirsute; stem erect, branching, leafy; leaves long-petioled, pinnately divided, the lower five times, the upper three times, divisions variously lobed and toothed; flowers in cymose racemes; corolla short-campanulate, open, five-lobed, purple in color; calyx persistent, surrounding the capsule.

THE Cut-leaved Phacelia is a plant of the mountain region of eastern North America, ranging northwestward into Illinois and Canada. It is especially abundant on the western slopes of the Alleghanies, flourishing on shaded cliffs. In such locations it unfolds its fresh green leaves and clusters of pretty blue-purple flowers, in May and June. The leaves are daintily cut or lobed, giving a delicate, graceful look to the plant. The blossom is an open bell-shape. This Phacelia usually grows in profusion, making one of the most attractive objects of the mountain landscape.

"With wise instinct Nature seems
To harmonize her wide extremes,
Linking the stronger with the weak,
The haughty with the soft and meek."

Often a high cliff of shale or limestone is fairly purple with its flowers. It has but one disagreeable quality. The whole plant, but especially the blossoms, have a strong, unpleasant odor, unlike any other, rank and weed-like in quality.

We have not many Phacelias in eastern North America. The little Phacelia Parviflora, a plant of fertile fields, is common southward. It has pale blue cup-shaped flowers. The most beautiful of our eastern species is the Miami Mist, Phacelia purshii, a flower that fully merits its romantic name. It is a delicate plant of grassy meadows, with blue and white, handsomely fringed corollas. In the West there are a great many species.

PLATE 186.

BIRD'S-FOOT VIOLET. VIOLA PEDATA. (VIOLET FAMILY.)

Perennial acaulescent; root-stock short, truncate; leaves on long, slender petioles, three to five times divided, divisions lobed and cleft, ultimate segments linear; flowers large on long peduncles; corolla with a short blunt spur; petals obovate; stigma large, without a beak.

WHAT plants go further toward giving character to the spring flower-life than the Violet? Whether it be the upland beech woods where the Yellow Violet grows, or the mossy bogs, haunt of Bland and Lance-leaved Violets, with their white, blue-veined blossoms, or rich deep woods where the tall Canada Violet loves to dwell, or grassy meadows, home of our dear common blue Violet, wherever any flower may grow,

"Tints that spot the violet's petal."

Sandy fields and dry, pine-covered hillsides have their Violet too, the handsomest, gayest violet of all. 'Tis the beautiful Bird's-foot, with its parted leaves and great lilac-colored flowers. On dry shaly hills a variety is sometimes found with the two upper petals of a rich, dark, velvety purple, the other three retaining the ordinary lilac color—a truly royal flower. The leaves are cut into narrow segments, radiating outward something like the toes of a bird's foot—hence the popular name.

The Bird's-foot Violet is a common plant in the sandy soil of the low-lying coastal plain, and on hillsides further west. It is found from the Atlantic, northwestward to Minnesota, thence, more abundantly, southward to the Gulf. In April and May, when

"Fresh grasses fringe the meadow brooks,
Then mildly from its sunny nooks
The blue eye of the violet looks."



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CUT-LEAVED PHACELIA.

PHACELIA BIPINNATIFIDA.

MAY—JUNE.



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BIRD'S-FOOT VIOLET.

VIOLA PEDATA.

MAY—JUNE.

PLATE 187.

NEVADA WILD ONION. ALLIUM NEVADENSE. (LILY FAMILY.)

Perfectly smooth; scape not more than three inches high, rising from a many-coated bulb; leaf single, filiform; longer than the scape; flowers in a terminal umbel; white or pinkish; sepals six, lanceolate, acute; stamens included, six in number.

MANY Wild Onions are found in North America, especially in the Rocky Mountain region and in the desert country of the Southwest. But even on the Atlantic seaboard there are a very respectable number of them. Allium Tricoccum is a common kind in the northeastern part of the country, occurring along the mountains down to the far South. It has a large white bulb of a mild, pleasant flavor, very popular as a vegetable in the Alleghanies. Allium Cernuum occurs over a great part of the continent. It is one of the handsomest of the Onions, with large pale pink or rose-color flowers. Allium Canadense is the Common Wild Onion of meadows and pastures, whose flavor is such an unwelcome intruder in spring milk and butter.

The Nevada Wild Onion is a plant of the western mountains. It is found in Utah, and westward to the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada in California. It is a low plant, only two or three inches high. The stem bears but a single leaf and a cluster of white and faintly pink blossoms. This onion is popular with the Indians. The Utes eat the bulb, which passes with them by the name of "urge."

PLATE 188.

SKULLCAP. SCUTELLARIA GALERICULATA. (MINT FAMILY.)

Smooth or slightly pubescent: stem erect, much branched, not exceeding two feet in height; leaves opposite, short-petioled, oblong ovate; flowers large, axillary; calyx small, two-lipped; corolla labiate, lower lip much larger than the arched upper one, emarginate; stamens four, concealed by the upper lip.

HANDSOMEST, or among the handsomest, of the genera of the Mint Family is Scutellaria. The two-lipped flowers are usually large and showy, the leaves and the cut of the whole plant neat and graceful. The color of the blossoms is bright blue, usually variegated with white. The most beautiful of our eastern species is Scutellaria Integrifolia, a plant that grows impartially in dry open woods, and in moist, grassy meadows, throughout the greater part of eastern North America. The small Scutellaria Parvula has pretty little blue flowers. The Mad Dog Skullcap is an odd plant of ditches and banks of streams, flowering in late summer. The Rock Skullcap, Scutellaria Saxatilis, is a delicate species with creeping or erect stems, round, heart-shaped leaves, and blue and white flowers, a rare plant and very beautiful.

Scutellaria Galericulata, so called because of the helmet-shaped upper lip, is a common plant of moist ground in the North, and is occasionally met with in the mountain regions southward. It is a handsome plant with dark green leaves and large, bright blue flowers, opening in July and August.

The name Scutellaria has reference to the shape of the calyx in these plants. It has a flattened appendage that has the appearance of a "small vessel."



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NEVADA WILD ONION.

ALLIUM NEVADENSE.

MAY—JUNE.



— 188 —

SKULLCAP.

SCUTELLARIA GALERICULATA.

JULY.

PLATE 189.

TWO-LEAVED MITRE-WORT. MITELLA DIPHYLLA. (SAXIFRAGE FAMILY.)

Perennial, appressed pubescent; root-stock scaly, thickened; stem erect, unbranched, wand-like; root-leaves broadly ovate, usually five-lobed, long petioled; stem leaves two, almost sessile, opposite, three-lobed; flowers small, white in a long, slender terminal raceme; calyx five-parted; petals five, laciniate; fruit a capsule, two-beaked by the persistent styles.

IN May time, while

"The stir
Of the soft breeze ruffling the meadow flowers"

brings down showers of white and pink from blossom-laden trees, and sighs amid the tender green of newly-opened leaves, a dainty little plant appears in fertile shades. A cluster of long-stalked heart-shaped leaves it has, and from the midst of these rises a slender stalk. Two leaves stand opposite each other midway on the stem, which ends in a long, wand-like cluster of small white flowers. Pretty blossoms they are, though so tiny. The five petals, delicate and soon falling, are cut and fringed. When the blossoming time has passed, the capsule opens, disclosing a number of minute, black, shining seeds. It is an odd seed-vessel, that of the Mitella. It is shaped something like a cap or mitre, hence both English and Latin names. Bishop's Cap it is sometimes called. A nearly related plant, the False Mitre-wort, a handsome plant with heart-shaped, brown-marked leaves and a close spike of feathery white flowers, is known as Tiarella, the "Little Tiara."

Mitella Diphylla is scattered but found in profusion from the eastern borders of the United States and Canada, thence westward to Missouri and south to North Carolina. The specific name *Diphylla* alludes to the twin stem leaves.

PLATE 190.

COMMON MILKWEED. ASCLEPIAS SYRIACA (CORNUTI). (MILKWEED FAMILY.)

Stem tall, stout, terete, leafy; leaves opposite, the uppermost alternate, short petioled, oblong or ovate-oblong, rounded or acutish at base, mucronate at apex, tomentose beneath; flowers numerous in axillary, stalked umbels; calyx and corolla five-parted; stamens united into a tube surmounted by a five-lobed crown.

DOWN in the bottom-lands, or along roadsides and in meadows, tiny seeds with white, silken plumes are caught up merrily by the wind and are borne far and wide over the country-side. These are the seeds of the Milkweed, furnished, like the Thistle seeds with a well-contrived parachute. There is a difference, though. In the Thistle, the soft white bristles represent the lobes of the calyx, the tube being grown to the seed. But in the Milkweed, the silky hairs are growths from the coat of the seed, within the pod. This pod is boat-shaped and pointed, opening along one side only.

Asclepias Syriaca, the Common Milkweed, is a tall showy plant, decidedly handsome in appearance. 'Tis a native of eastern North America, though Linnæus thought it belonged to Western Asia when he named it. It is a common weed, flowering in early summer, and ripening its seeds by the beginning of autumn. The stout stem is full of white, sticky, milk-like juice that exudes copiously when the plant is wounded.

There are a large number of other milkweeds, some very handsome. The Butterfly-weed, Asclepias Tuberosa, is one of the gaudiest flowers of summer fields.



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TWO-LEAVED MITRE-WORT.

MITELLA DIPHYLLA.

MAY.



— 190 —

COMMON MILKWEED.

ASCLEPIAS SYRIACA (COCNUT.)

JUNE

PLATE 191.

ABRONIA TURBINATA. (FOUR O'CLOCK FAMILY.)

Whole plant covered with short, viscid pubescence; stem erect or procumbent, much branched; leaves opposite, one smaller than the other, long-petioled, obtuse at apex, rounded and unequal at base; flowers in a head, surrounded by a many-leaved involucre; corolla none; calyx salver-shaped, with long tube and five-lobed border.

AMONG the many curious flowers that inhabit the hot plains of the great Southwest, none are more peculiar than the different members of the Four O'Clock Family. Mirabilis—"wonderful"—Linnæus named the best known genus of the family, that to which our familiar garden friend, the Four O'Clock itself, belongs. Truly these are wonderful plants. The flowers are as gay and delicate as any, yet they have no petals. It is the calyx, usually green and inconspicuous, the weather-beaten outside of the flower-home, that takes on the bright colors usually peculiar to the corolla. The fruits are odd, winged and surmounted by the withered flowers. Then, the time of flowering of many of these plants, when all respectable plants are thinking of putting up the shutters and going to bed, has something weird about it.

Abronia is a genus of which there are many species in the Western States and Territories. The flowers are not so large as those of the Four O'Clock and other relatives, but make up for their smallness by their greater number.

Abronia turbinata is a beautiful plant, a native of California, Nevada and eastward to Texas. It has rose-colored, fragrant blossoms.

PLATE 192.

WILD CLEMATIS—VIRGIN'S-BOWER. CLEMATIS VIRGINIANA. (CROWFOOT FAMILY.)

Perennial; stems somewhat woody, slender, twining; leaves alternate, long-petioled, ternate; leaflets ovate, somewhat lobed, coarsely toothed, pointed; flowers numerous in open panicled cymes; petals none; sepals four, white; stamens numerous; achenes tipped with the long plumose styles.

"The favor'd flower
Which boasts the name of Virgin Bower"

IS one of the plants wherewith the Minstrel of the North decks the island bower of his fair Lady of the Lake. The European Virgin-Bower, or Traveler's Joy, is a common hedge plant in the Old World. Its stems are loaded with a profusion of fragrant white flowers. It has become the emblem of safety—why, it would be difficult to fancy. In this country we have a nearly allied Clematis, Clematis Virginiana. It possesses most of the attributes of the Traveler's Joy, weak stems that recline in tangled masses on shrubs and tall herbs along streams, bearing great clusters of yellow-white flowers. These blossoms are scented, but not so sweetly as are those of the Old World species. They are great favorites with the bees, when Clover and Linden blossoms are withered and gone. On any bright, warm day in August one may find the Clematis flowers fairly dark with the honey-gatherers. The plant is not less beautiful in fruit than in flower. The fruits are plumed with long, silvery, silken tails, which are curled one around the other. The whole cluster looks like a "St. Catherine's Wheel." A plant loaded with these heads demands the artist's brush to depict it; words are unequal to the task.



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ABRONIA TURBINATA.

(FOUR O'CLOCK FAMILY.)

JULY—AUGUST.



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WILD CLEMATIS—VIRGIN'S BOWER

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